

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215798

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 23075 ACTION INFO PHNOM PENH PEKING
HONG KONG SECSTATE DATED 9/30/74.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CB, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF KHMER PROBLEM

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE TOLD EMBOFF
SEPTEMBER 27 THAT PERSONS ARRIVING FROM PHNOM PENH
(APPARENTLY KHMER AS WELL AS FRENCH) PAINTED A VERY
GLOOMY PICTURE OF THE SITUATION THERE. INFLATION,
CORRUPTION, VIOLENCE ETC. CHARACTERIZED THEIR PORTRAIT
OF PHNOM PENH LIFE, AND THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS
THAT THIS SITUATION "COULD NOT GO ON" AND "C'EST LA FIN
DE QUELQUE CHOSE."

2. BOLLE HAD RECENTLY BEEN VISITED BY FORMER MINISTER
GENERAL NHIEK TIOULONG WHO SHOWED THAT DESPITE
RESIDENCE IN FRANCE SINCE 1969, HE WAS INFORMED IN
DETAIL ABOUT THE PHNOM PENH SITUATION AND ALSO FOLLOWS
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OTHER CAMP. PARTICULARLY
SIHANOUK'S ASPECT OF IT. (HIS DAUGHTER IS MARRIED TO
SIHANOUK'S SON, AND HE HAS CONTACTS PARTICULARLY WITH
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MONIRETH.) TIOULONG APPARENTLY NOTED THAT THERE WERE

DISPUTES AMONG THE INDIVIDUALS IN PEKING JUST AS THERE WERE IN PHNOM PENH, AND BOLLE OPINED THAT THERE WERE PROBABLY SIMILAR FACTIONALISM IN THE IN-COUNTRY COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP. ACCORDING TO BOLLE, TIOULONG WAS HOLDING HIMSELF READY TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE AND WAS NO LONGER SAYING THAT HE WAS MERELY INTERESTED IN CULTIVATING HIS GARDEN IN FRANCE.

3. COMMENT: BOLLE APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT THE INSTABILITY IN PHNOM PENH MAY LEAD TO SOME SORT OF POLITICAL BREAKTHROUGH WHICH PARTISANS OF SIHANOUK -- SUCH AS TIOULONG -- CAN HOPE TO EXPLOIT. HE APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT TIOULONG'S RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITY IS BASED ON AT LEAST HINTS FROM SIHANOUK. ALTHOUGH SEEING NO DEFINITE PROSPECTS YET FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF KHMER PROBLEM, FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO SEE TIOULONG APPROACH AND LAO FONMIN (COMMUNIST) CONTACT WITH LONG BORET IN NEW YORK AS SLIGHTLY HOPEFUL SIGNS.
IRWIN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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